

INFORMATION REPORT

COUNTRY Germany (Russian Zone)

SUBJECT Personnel Production of the
Zuckerraffinerie-DessauPLACE
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[REDACTED]

1. The Zuckerraffinerie-Dessau in Dessau, a people's owned enterprise, had, prior to and during the war, a crew of 1600 workers and twelve chemists. As of the end of January 1950, it had a crew of about 1000 workers and only the following three chemists: Dipl. Ing. Gillemann, Dr. Nette, Dr. Piper. None of these three people is a Communist.
2. At the end of November 1949, the Russians arrested the Director of the works, seventy-year-old Kaatz, accusing him of having transferred funds to West Germany. In January 1950, two more directors, Niedermeyer and Gromzic, were arrested, as well as the two head clerks, Martin Müller and Kreutzsch. Their arrest was followed, shortly afterwards, by the arrest of Chemist Dr. Karl Bergt. After all members of the management and some of the leading technicians of the firm were arrested, the Russians installed one Stangel, aged 45, as Hauptdirektor of the works. Stangel, a mechanic by occupation, came from the Molasses Factory in Schönebeck (Elbe), where he had been active as an SED functionary among the crew of the works. He is a confirmed Communist of long standing. Shortly after his arrival, Stangel and Communist Kulturdirektor Müller, explained why the arrests had taken place: the arrested persons were charged not only with having engaged in illegal money transfers, but also with having furnished confidential information to Western powers.
3. In addition to a number of smaller production items, such as yeast, the works produce mainly ethyl alcohol and sugar. The alcohol is produced from xylose (wood sugar, Holzzucker) in solution, as well as from molasses of beet-root sugar. The result, after fermentation, is 96% ethyl alcohol (C_2H_5OH), of which the works had a daily output of 50,000 liters as of January 1950. At the same time, production of refined sugar from beets amounted to 100,000 kilograms a day. The entire production of alcohol, as well as of sugar, goes to Russia via Stettin harbor. [REDACTED] the alcohol shipped to Russia is used there for the production of synthetic rubber (Buna).
4. The research division of the works has been engaged in the study of refining and purifying organic substances, with emphasis on deacidifying and desalinating them. For this purpose, an artificial resin substance, Wofatit, has mainly been

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used; this substance has been furnished to the works by the former IG works in Wolfen, near Bitterfeld. Wofatit has shown excellent results in the desalification of sugar solution. It has also been employed for the purification of victuals, such as whey and malt residuum. By use of Wofatit and other purifying agents, the research division of the works has succeeded in developing high-grade, whippable albumen and food seasonings; it has also produced very pure lecithin from yeast. All results gained by the research division have been transmitted to the Russians.